(b) what benefits have been provided to the agricultural labourers under the Social Security Scheme 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana–2001'; and

(c) how many labourers have been covered under the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) According to the provisional estimates of 2001 Census, there are about 10.7 crore agricultural labourers in the country.

(b) The 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001' envisages to provide life-cum-accident insurance, money back, pension and superannuation benefits.

(c) According to reports received from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), 1,73,915 (Provisional) agricultural labourers have been covered under the scheme upto 31.10.2002.

Investment of EPF

1738. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to restructure investment of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to optimise its earnings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the subscribers to continue to get higher return on their money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Modification of investment pattern/ guidelines is a continuous process. Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund as a custodian to the funds belonging to workers constantly strives to achieve best possible returns while assuring maximum safety.

Increasing unemployment

1739. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of unemployment in the country has increased in the nineties *vis-a-vis* eighties;

(b) if so, the details for the rural and urban areas from 1999-2000 till date year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that decline in the employment growth for females has been higher than that of male during the same period; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan to arrest the trend and what are the resources to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) As per the sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation from time to time, estimated open unemployment in the country in the year 1983 and 1999-2000 was of the order of 60 lakh and 90 lakh respectively.

(b) State-wise estimates of unemployment rates in the rural and urban areas in the country during 1999-2000 (latest available) are given in the Statement. (*see* below)

(c) Estimated employment for the males and females in the year 1983 and 1999-2000, was as follows:

Year	Estimated employment (in millions)		Total
	Male	Female	
1983	200.13	102.19	302.75
1999-2000	273.98	123.04	397.00

(d) The approach to Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

Statement

State-wise estimates of unemployment rates in the rural and urban areas

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	State-wise employment rate*			
		1999-2000			
		Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	1.2	0.7	4.2	4.2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.9	0.1	1.4	10.0
3	Assam	4.7	11.9	9.1	22.3
4	Bihar	2.4	0.6	7.6	9.4
5	Goa	7.0	18.7	15.3	35.2
6	Gujarat	0.8	0.3	2.1	2.6
7	Haryana	1.3	0.5	2.7	4.6
8	Himachal Pradesh	3.0	1.8	6.3	11.8
9	Jammu and Kashmir	2.6	7.1	4.7	12.8
10	Karnataka	1.0	0.3	3.0	4.7
11	Kerala	7.6	19.7	6.9	26.4
12	Madhya Pradesh	0.7	0.2	4.3	1.6
13	Maharashtra	2.4	1.1	6.1	7.8
14	Manipur	2.4	2.5	7.4	10.3
15	Meghalaya	0.5	0.3	3.4	6.8
16	Mizoram	2.1	0.5	4.4	2.6
17	Nagaland	3.0	3.8	9.3	10.8
18	Orissa	3.1	1.6	7.2	6.7
19	Punjab	2.3	6.2	3.1	3.5
20	Rajasthan	0.8	0.2	2.7	3.7
21	Sikkim	3.5	2.0	6.7	10.0
22	Tamil Nadu	3.0	1.2	3.9	5.8
23	Tripura	0.8	4.6	5.5	8.8
24	Uttar Pradesh	1.3	0.6	4.5	4.6

1	2	3	4	5	6
25	West Bengal	3.4	0.6	7.7	11.1
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.3	3.8	3.8	23.9
27	Chandigarh	1.0	7.6	3.9	14.4
28	D & N Haveli	1.6	–	1.6	–
29	Daman and Diu	1.3	–	1.4	8.3
30	Delhi	3.9	-26.0	3.2	5.3
31	Lakshadweep	10.9	52.9	8.2	26.3
32	Pondicherry	4.7	2.6	3.5	6.9
	ALL INDIA:	2.1	1.5	4.8	7.1

**As per usual status approach.*

Unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed with reference to Labour Force.

Review of labour laws

1740. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the process of consulting various sections for a review of the labour laws in the light of the Second National Labour Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, the name of the sections whose representatives have been consulted so far; and

(c) the steps taken to evolve a consensus on the issues such as retrenchment, right to go on strike, social security, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour set up by the Government to make its recommendations on various aspects of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women and child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganized sector etc. The Ministry has held consultations and interactions, with the workers' representatives, employers' organizations, experts, professionals etc. The recommendations of the Commission were also discussed in the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29